Kila Johnson, DDS

Dr. Kila Johnson is the Director of Dental Services for Harris County Public Health in Houston, TX. She received her B. S. degree from Spelman College in Atlanta, GA and her D. D. S. degree from Baylor College of Dentistry. In her present position, Dr. Johnson provides oversight for a range of dental programs that aim to promote the importance of oral health across the lifespan for all residents in Harris County.  The dental programs at Harris County strive to meet residents where they are to provide resources, assistance, and education they need in an environment most convenient for them – including clinics, mobile dental services, school-based services and community oral health programs in conjunction with other community partners.  Dr. Johnson has over 20 years’ experience in dental public health and has a passion for promoting early prevention, as well as encouraging inter-professional collaboration to promote the best health outcomes for patients.

Dr. Johnson serves as a subject matter expert and invited speaker on topics including perinatal oral health, early childhood oral health prevention programs, the impact of oral health on overall health, school-based dental program operations as well as mobile dental programs. As an advocate for evidence based oral health interventions like community water fluoridation and school-based sealant programs, she has also provided in-person testimony during the legislative session in support of bringing Teledentistry to the state of Texas.

In addition to overseeing initiatives that strive to improve the oral health of underserved populations, she is also committed to training and influencing the next generation of oral health professionals. Dr. Johnson has served as a preceptor for students pursuing undergraduate Health Education and Promotion studies, graduate MPH students and has ensured opportunities for second year dental hygiene students who benefit from clinical rotations with Harris County Public Health clinics.

As a general dentist with an extensive background in the public health sector, Dr. Johnson utilizes her clinical experience and administrative background in program development, implementation, and management to ensure successful program outcomes. Her areas of focus are operational grant management with a keen emphasis on key metric achievement, development of dental clinical policies and procedures, dental project management including guiding new clinic design and construction and strategic partnership development.

Recognizing that we are doing a much greater public service by implementing programs and interventions to prevent disease than we would by only treating dental diseases once they present themselves – Dr. Johnson works each day to improve access to oral health for all. Access to oral health is a basic human right and there can be no equity in oral health until it is accessible to everyone.